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FLOOR DEBATE

February 4, 2002 LB 446

SENATOR AGUILAR: For at least five years.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They've been above 10,000 for 5 years and last year they fell below it?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes, they fell below simply because of all the cancellations that took place after the September 11 attack. Also the main airline that flies into Grand Island had to cancel a lot of flights because of financial problems. And for these 2 main reasons, we fell below that 10,000 mark and, you know, concerned with losing our primary status.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, under the amendment, as I read it, you would only have to be above the 10,000 mark once every 5 years. Is that...is that a correct way of reading it?

SENATOR AGUILAR: That's correct, and the reason it's there is because they figure it could take up to that long to get their boardings back up to where they've reached that classification.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It fell...what did it fall to last year, to...

SENATOR AGUILAR: Well, they are estimating it will be 9,000 instead of the 10,000.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Now tell me...tell me the reason for this; if this affects no other funding in the state, and I understand that it doesn't, is that correct? I mean...

SENATOR AGUILAR: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...this doesn't mean anybody else is getting less. It's not a limited pile of money. You are just going to the FAA, is that right?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, if that's the case, why do we have a statute at all? Why don't we just say anybody can get money? Why do...why do we have this primary airport definition? I